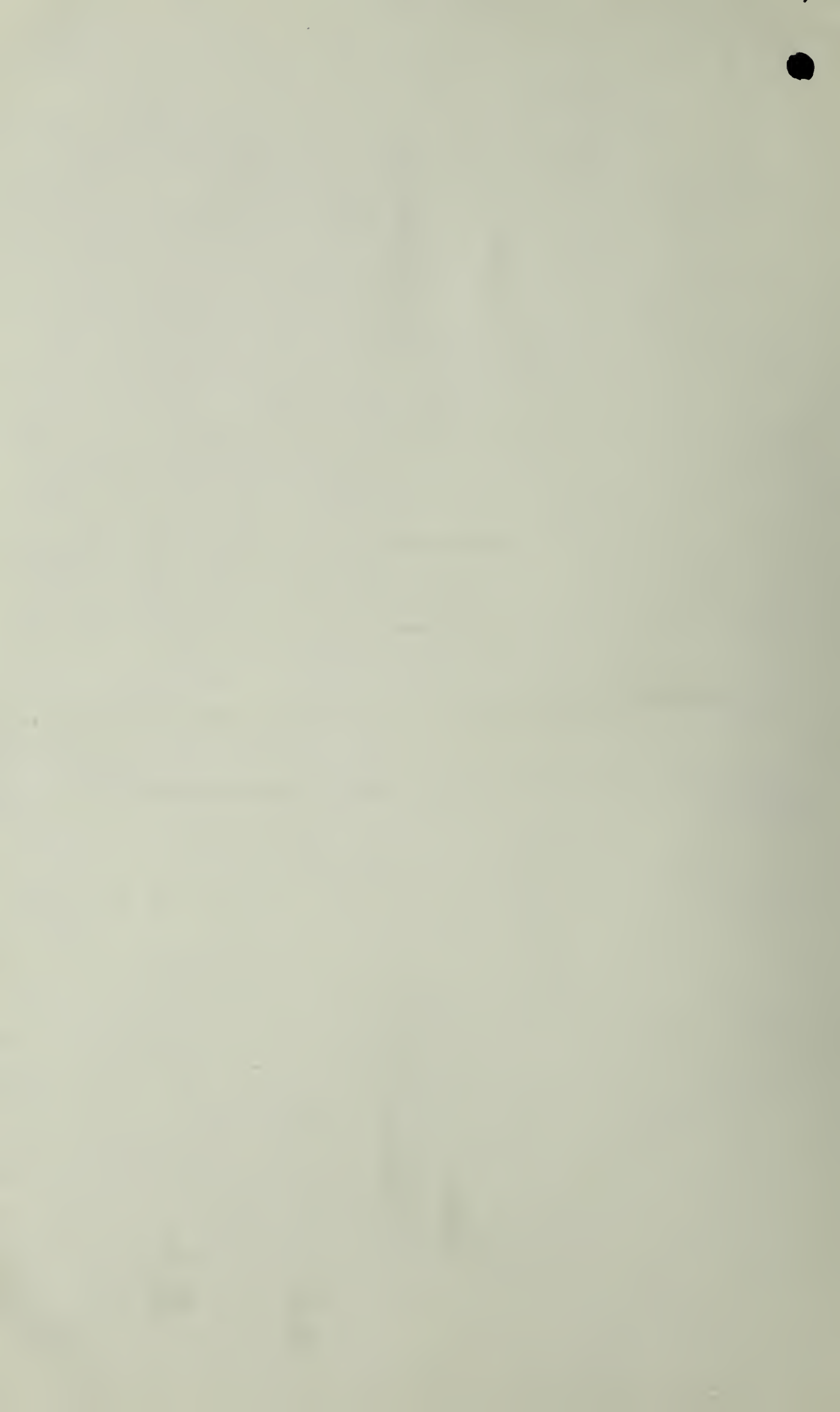


Builth Urban District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall,Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....Mr.J.E.Morgan,M.P.H.I.A.,
M.R.S.H.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health1958

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District during the year 1958.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 22/58 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....701 acres.

The Urban District of Builth Wells, which has an area of 701 acres is situated on the right bank of the river Wye in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. The district is also a very pleasant country holiday resort.

Population.

Census 1931.....1663.

Census 1951.....1708.

Estimated at Midsummer 1958.....1540.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below:

1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

1674. 1674. 1638. 1576. 1561. 1570. 1570. 1560. 1540. 1540.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 543 giving an average number of persons per house of 2.9.

Live Births. Males. Females. Total. Rate per 1000 pop.

Legitimate 7 13 20

Illegitimate 0 0 0

7 13 20 12.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.4. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and, regrettably was also lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. No illegitimate births were registered during the year.

Deaths. Males. Females. Total. Rate per 1000 Pop.

12 10 22 14.2

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, regrettably, higher than the district birth rate.

Still Births. Males. Females. Total. Rate per 1000 live&still births

0 1 1 47.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 21.6. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average.

Total Live and Still Births.....21.

Infant Deaths.There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality rate.....0.
Legitimate mortality rate.....0.
Illegitimate mortality rate.....0.
Neo-natal mortality rate.....0.

The total mortality rate for England and Wales was 22.5

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....0.

Maternal Deaths.No death could be attributed to childbirth,which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....One.
Other forms of tuberculosis.....Nil.
Cancer.....Three.

Analysis of Causes of Death. Males.....12. Females.....10.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	0.....	1.....
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.....	0.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	2.....
Leukaemia.....	1.....	0.....
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	0.....	1.....
Coronary disease.....	2.....	1.....
Other heart disease.....	4.....	3.....
Other circulatory disease.....	1.....	1.....
Bronchitis.....	1.....	1.....
Nephritis.....	1.....	0.....
Motor vehicle accident.....	1.....	0.....

The causes of deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths,

Section.2 General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.

There was no change during the year in your Public Health Officers,Mr.J.E.Morgan remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Builth and Brecon.Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen,whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and other Facilities.The County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance and home nursing services.The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments,dental,eye and orthopaedic defects.Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals.The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells Hospital.The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years.Merthyr Borough treat the patients suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital.These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for disinfection when required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. During the year three new control valves were installed in the mains to assist in the detection of waste water.

The supply during the year has been fairly well maintained and emergency pumping was not required. It was, however, necessary on a number of occasions to cut off the supply at night. This was thought to be due to the habit of leaving taps running during frosty weather and also due to garden watering. A large burst main was also found and repaired since when the adequacy has considerably improved.

No further definite steps have been taken during the year to obtain a supply from the adjoining Water Board during deficiency periods, and the Council are still awaiting financial details concerning this.

The Council still continue to supply the neighbouring parishes of Llanellwedd and Llandewicwm.

Number of visits of inspection.....111.

Number of samples examined.....4.

These samples all proved satisfactory. The water was also examined frequently in the adjoining parishes with satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged into the River Wye below the town. The number of houses now not connected to a public sewer is 11, 10 have septic tanks and no nuisance is created. 1 other house has an earth closet.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work.....25.

Consultants have been engaged with the view of preparing a possible sewage disposal works for the town. By the end of the year the survey of the existing system had been made.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection of refuse. This is collected once a week by your Council staff and disposed of by controlled tipping. No tipping now takes place on the old site, a new refuse tip having been commenced at Caeau Farm.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....35.

Number of complaints investigated.....35.

Number of premises inspected.....35.

Number of premises revisited.....22.

Number of preliminary notices served.....31.

Number of statutory notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under byelaws under Section 6, of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....19.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....21.
 Number of inspections made.....18.
 Number of defects found.....0.
 Number of defects remedied.....0.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....6.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Number of premises infested.....5.
 Number of premises disinfested.....5.

Rodent Control. This work is undertaken by one of the Council's workmen.

The Caeau Farm refuse tip was treated twice during the year with good poison bait takes. Ten per cent of manholes were test baited in August with no poison takes.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....67.
 Number of premises found infested.....19.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....18.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....1.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No Council houses were built during the year, but consideration was given to the proposal to build twelve houses on the Pendre Site and these should be erected and occupied in the coming year. It is expected that these houses will be earmarked for slum clearance.

There were three Grants made for Housing Improvements to the value of £355.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925-1932.

Number of houses which on inspection, were considered unfit for human habitation.....5.
 Number of visits made under the Housing Act.....18.
 Number of Notices served.....2.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.Milk.

As from the 14th. April 1958 the provisions of Sub Section (1) of Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 became operative for the Builth Wells area. All milk retailers therefore must sell milk under a Special Designation. Such milk must also be contained in bottles or cartons for the purpose of sale. The selling of loose milk from churns or cans is prohibited.

Four samples of milk were examined for the presence of tuberculosis and brucella abortus. All were reported as being negative.

Meat. The small private slaughterhouse, licensed on 1st. July, 1954, continues to operate in the district.

Number of visits to this slaughterhouse.....114.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	166	12	1059	258
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	-	163	11
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci	12.6%	8.3%	15.3%	4.2%

T.B. only

Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	3
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with T.B.	0.6%	-	-	0.1%

Cysticercosis.

Nil

Disposal

Collected by knacker

Food condemned during the year. Meat at Slaughterhouse....752 lbs.
 Amount of other food condemned...129 lbs.
 This condemned food was in tins which were all punctured and buried in the Council's tip.

Market Improvements. During the year the market continued to function satisfactorily as an attested market and 25 new dual purpose sheep/pig pens were constructed and brought into use.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....33.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....7.
 In the district there is 1 producer retailer and 6 retailers.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....26.
 There are 4 of these premises in the town.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....5.
 There was one fried fish shop in the town.

Byelaws under Section 15. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of food premises, by type, were: Licensed Hotels 12, Food Shops 31, Cafes and unlicensed hotels 8, Fish and Chip shops 1, and 5 bakehouses.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

Only one case of measles was notified to me during the year. The district remained, therefore, remarkably free from infectious disease. No deaths were caused by infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	14.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	1.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	0.
Number of cases who left the district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	14.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:

1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

1. 4. 4. 3. 2. 3. 0. 1. 1. 3. 1.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health